

MIT's Oldest and
Largest Newspaper

thetech.com

Volume 137, Number 12

WEATHER, p. 2

	THU: 58°F 45°F
	Rain
	SAT: 64°F 50°F

Clear skies

Mostly cloudy

Thursday, May 4, 2017



De La Cruz released on bail

MIT senior ruled 'not dangerous'

By Anshula Gandhi
NEWS EDITOR

A judge granted bail to Angel De La Cruz at a hearing this Monday, according to Alexander List '15, who attended the hearing. The hearing was supposed to have taken place last week, but was postponed.

At a previous hearing Jan. 13, De La Cruz was ruled "dangerous," and so was denied bail. This week's hearing revised the ruling, declaring Angel not "dangerous."

De La Cruz, a senior in Course 6 and a resident of Senior House, was arrested Jan. 6 when police searched his dorm room after an MIT counselor filed a report and found "pistol, a rifle, and ammunition that he was not licensed to possess."

A total of 31 MIT community members, including alumni and Senior House residents, showed up to the Monday hearing in support of De La Cruz, List said. Angel's attorney Kristin Weberg told the group she had "never seen a group of people show up for any one of [the thousands of defendants she had previously represented] the way you have for Angel."

The next court dates for De La Cruz are over a month from now, according to List.

IN SHORT

The deadline for undergraduates to apply to serve on an Institute committee is Friday at midnight.

DormCon elections will take place today at 7:30 p.m. in W20 PDRs 1&2.

A phishing email claiming to be a Google docs sharing notification swept Google users yesterday before Google resolved the issue. If you think you were affected, visit g.co/SecurityCheckup.

As the end of the semester approaches, remember to take care of yourselves! Eat, sleep, and take breaks.

Send news and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.



LILY BAILEY—THE TECH
Camel rides around Kresge featured in the Israel Independence Day Festival Tuesday.

Freshmen declare majors: 6-3 dominates the field, sharp drop in 6-2

Declarations of Course 6-3 rose significantly from last year, while those of its stouter cousin 6-2 fell the most, as the Registrar's Office tallied the results of the Class of 2020's major selections. Overall, new enrollments in the School of Engineering dropped 3.3 percent, while majors outside the top nine tacked on a 2.5 percent increase.

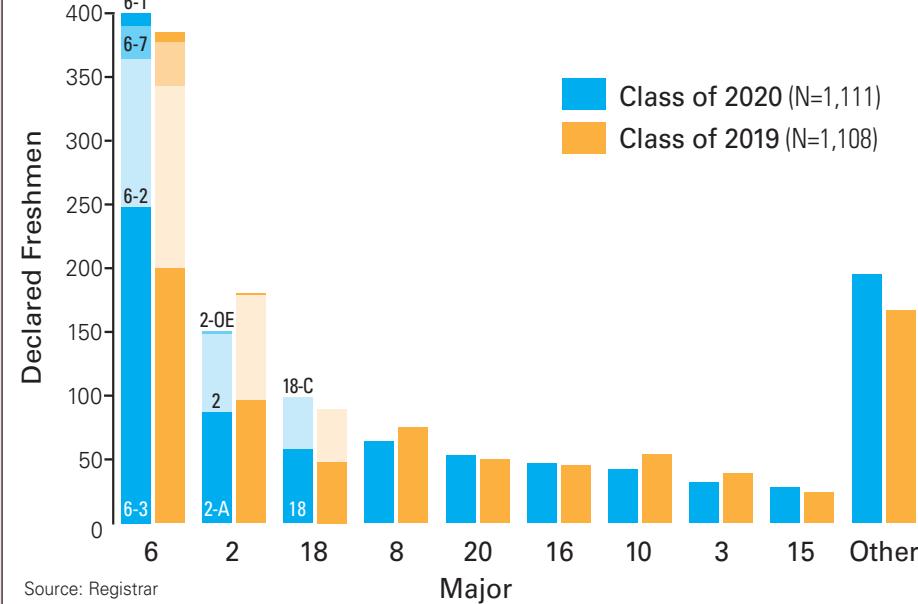
Course 14, which took 0.3 percent of decliners from the Class of 2019, gained 1.4 percent from this year's freshmen with its new dual offerings of 14-1 (Economics) and 14-2 (Mathematical Economics). The Department of Mechanical Engineering's Course 2A and Course 2, which have recently seen the second and third most enrollments, had a drop in freshman enrollments between 2016 and 2017, from 8.7 and 7.5 percent of total enrollments to 7.8 and 5.5 percent, respectively.

Course 24-2 (Linguistics & Philosophy) once again scored only one member of the freshman class, while Course 12 (Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences) occupied its singleton acquisition from last year, gaining eight students.

The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science announced the creation of a minor in computer science last April, and the minor has drawn 67 applicants since its inception, Registrar Mary Callahan said in an email to *The Tech*.

Overall the number of students who enrolled in each of MIT's six schools is as follows: eight in the School of Architecture and Planning, 743 in the School of Engineering,

Number of Declared Freshman Majors: May 2017 v. May 2016



25 in the School of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, 28 in the Sloan School of Management, and 239 in the School of Science.

68 freshmen either remain undesignated or have yet to declare a major.
—Patrick Wahl

DANCING WITH THE STARS

They came. They jived. They conquered (hearts). **ARTS, p. 8**



THE META-MUSICAL

A show within a show.
ARTS, p. 8



ONEWORLD@MIT

MIT celebrated culture on campus. *The Tech* covered it. **PHOTO, p. 6-7**

A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE ON LEAVE

Horror stories exist, but aren't necessarily the norm. **OPINION, p. 4**

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Fed holds rates steady with expectation of increase in June

A few pieces of disappointing economic news in recent weeks have not shaken the Federal Reserve's confidence that the economy is in good health.

The Fed, as expected, did not raise rates on Wednesday after a two-day meeting of its policymaking committee. But it remains likely to raise rates in the coming months.

The government estimates that the economy grew at an annual pace of just 0.7 percent in the first quarter, and prices continue to rise more slowly than Fed officials would prefer.

But the Fed, in a statement issued Wednesday after the meeting of its committee, said the economy's engine was still looking good, even if the car was moving a little slowly.

Consumer spending, the bulk of economic activity, slowed in recent months, but the Fed's statement said "the fundamentals underpinning the continued growth of consumption remain solid."

—Binyamin Appelbaum, *The New York Times*

Abe announces plan to revise Japan's pacifist constitution

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan announced on Wednesday a plan to revise a pacifist constitution that has been in place since it was enacted by American occupiers in 1947.

In a video message delivered at a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the constitution, Abe said he wanted to make "explicit the status" of the country's self-defense forces, as Japan's military is known, by amending the constitution by 2020.

As Japan faces continuing security threats from North Korea, Abe said that there should be no room for arguing that the military, with just over 227,000 active-duty troops, "may be unconstitutional."

Pacifism is enshrined in the constitution, with a clause known as Article 9 calling for the complete renunciation of war.

That clause represents a cherished part of the country's postwar identity, and Abe has long made clear his desire to amend it. Previous calls to revise it have been met with skepticism in Japan and in countries including China and South Korea that object to any signs of Japan's remilitarization.

Any revision would be subject to approval in a referendum. A poll published this week by Kyodo News showed that respondents were nearly equally split on the question of whether the pacifist clause should be revised.

—Motoko Rich, *The New York Times*

North Korea confirms detention of American teacher

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea confirmed on Wednesday that it was holding an American citizen, saying the man was being held for committing "hostile criminal acts with an aim to subvert the country."

The dispatch by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, was its first official confirmation of the arrest in late April of Kim Sang-duk, who also goes by his American name, Tony Kim.

Kim was detained at the airport in the capital, Pyongyang, on April 22 while he was trying to leave the country. His arrest raised the number of Americans thought to be held by the secretive nation to three.

Kim had taught accounting at Yanbian University of Science and Technology in China before traveling to Pyongyang, where he taught for about a month at a sister school, the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, according to Park Chan-mo, the university's chancellor.

The North has been accused of holding Americans on what many see as dubious charges in order to use them as diplomatic leverage.

—Choe Sang Hun, *The New York Times*

WEATHER

Weather, end of semester keeping us on our toes

By Lily Dove
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

In this season of formals, carnivals, and other end-of-year celebrations, the weather seems to be enjoying itself by keeping us on our toes. After a clear Thursday, the clouds will come rolling in with a passing front bringing a rainy and chilly Friday. Seniors shouldn't fret, though; the rain will be long gone in time for Senior Ball on Saturday night, but the sun will still be hiding in order to give each of you

your time to shine. Early next week, expect warm and sunny days with cool, partly cloudy nights.

Elsewhere in the continental United States, the same cold front which we will see on Friday has been causing severe river flooding in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Throughout the week, the front will continue traveling eastward, bringing strong winds and rain as far north as Illinois.

That's the weather. Good night and have a cloudy tomorrow!

Extended Forecast

Today: Clear day. High 58°F (14°C).

Tonight: Overcast. Low 45°F (7°C).

Tomorrow: Increasing chance of rain into the afternoon. High 54°F (12°C).

Saturday: Mostly cloudy. High 64°F (18°C).

Sunday: Partly cloudy. High 60°F (16°C).

Healthcare bill headed to House vote

Thomas Kaplan and Robert Pear
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — House Republican leaders plan to hold a showdown vote Thursday on their bill to repeal and replace large portions of the Affordable Care Act after adding \$8 billion to the measure to help cover insurance costs for people with pre-existing conditions.

"We have enough votes," Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California, the House majority leader, said Wednesday night. "It'll pass."

The amendment, drafted by Rep. Fred Upton of Michigan, secured the support of Upton and Rep. Billy Long of Missouri, two key Republican lawmakers who had come out against the health care legislation earlier this week, warning that it did not do enough to protect the sick.

President Donald Trump blessed the proposal at a White House meeting with both lawmakers as he pressed hard for a vote that could at least ensure House approval of the bill, which embodies one of

his key campaign promises. That set up the likely vote Thursday that carries enormous consequences, for his legislative agenda, for Speaker Paul D. Ryan, who has failed twice to bring the bill to the House floor — and for a U.S. health care system that has faced enormous upheaval for years, and the patients who rely on it.

The measure faces a wall of opposition from health care providers, disease advocates and retirees. Should it win House approval, vast parts of it could still be dismantled by the many Senate Republicans who are all but certain to reject the current proposal. But clearing the House is the necessary step to keep alive the Republican promise — seven years in the making — to dismantle President Barack Obama's signature domestic achievement.

Democrats and health care groups, once confident of another collapse, tried to slow that momentum. The liberal health advocacy group Families USA said another \$8 billion would do little to improve the "high-risk pools" that could be set up by state governments to pro-

vide coverage to people with pre-existing medical conditions who could not find affordable insurance in the open market.

The Affordable Care Act generally requires insurers to accept all applicants and prohibits them from charging higher premiums because of a person's medical condition. Conservatives argued that this and other requirements of the 2010 health law drive up insurance costs. The House Republican bill to roll back the Affordable Care Act generally requires insurers to charge higher premiums for one year to people who allow their coverage to lapse.

But the fight over pre-existing conditions overshadowed a major reason the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the original bill would leave 24 million more Americans without health insurance after a decade: a rollback of the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion in states that adopted it. The House plans to vote for the latest version before CBO can finish a fresh assessment of its cost and impact.

House approves spending deal, clearing hurdle to avoid shutdown

Matt Flegenheimer and Emmarie Huetteman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives on Wednesday approved a bipartisan \$1.1 trillion spending agreement to fund the government through September, clearing a key procedural hurdle to avert a shutdown even as scores of Republicans voted against their own leaders and a Republican president.

The depth of Republican opposition to the measure — which passed by a vote of 309-118, with little more than a dozen "no" votes from Democrats — reflects the perception on Capitol Hill that the minority party fared strikingly well in negotiations. There are also many conservative lawmakers who tend to oppose spending bills generally.

The agreement, which is expected to earn final passage with

a Senate vote as soon as Thursday, includes increased funding for some of President Donald Trump's priorities, like military and border security spending. But Democrats have broadly cheered the final product as a rejection of Trump's signature campaign pledges, most notably a border wall with Mexico, which was not included.

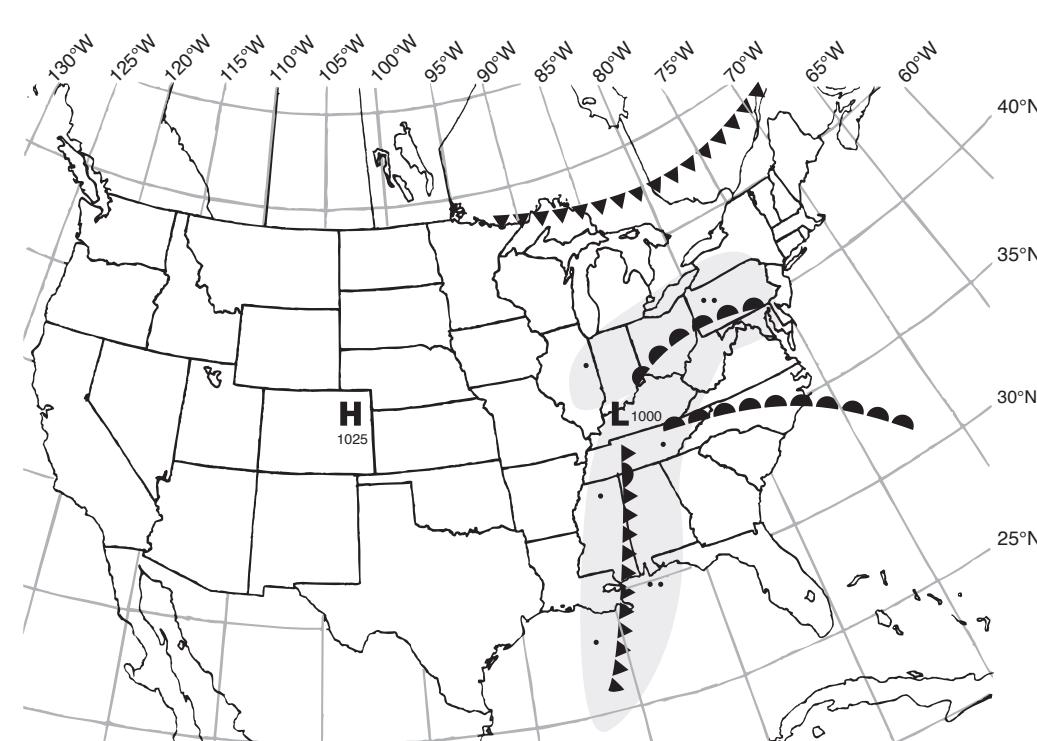
The measure supplies tens of millions of dollars to reimburse local law enforcement agencies for costs incurred protecting Trump and his family — a relief for New York City, which has worked to protect Trump Tower, where the president's wife, Melania Trump, and their son, Barron, live. And it increases funding by \$2 billion for the National Institutes of Health, rebuffing the Trump administration's request that its budget be reduced.

Republicans also claimed a number of policy victories. Speak-

er Paul D. Ryan endorsed the bill as "a good one for conservatives," citing the advancement of Republican priorities in military spending and education policy.

In recent days, the White House has at times appeared unsure how to frame the agreement, the first meaningful bipartisan legislation of Trump's term. The president has clearly chafed at Democrats' satisfaction with the deal, lashing out on Tuesday morning with a pair of Twitter messages.

In them, he mused that perhaps the United States needed a good 'shutdown' this fall to force a partisan confrontation over federal spending and suggested that the Senate might be well-served doing away with longstanding rules that effectively require a supermajority to approve most major legislation. Among senators, there is overwhelming bipartisan opposition to such a change.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, May 4, 2017

Weather Systems		Weather Fronts		Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols	
H	High Pressure	- - -	Trough	Snow	Rain	Fog	
L	Low Pressure	W	Warm Front	*	•	Thunderstorm	
§	Hurricane	▲▲▲	Cold Front	▽	•	Haze	
		▲▲	Stationary Front	**	••		
				○	○○		
				※	※※		
				◆	◆◆		

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

Russia proposes “de-escalation zones” to halt Syrian war

Anne Barnard
and Hwaida Saad
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT — Russia is circulating a draft proposal to Syrian rebel groups and diplomats that envision pausing the war in Syria through the creation of safe “de-escalation zones,” with outside troops possibly acting as buffers between the antagonists.

The draft proposal, shared with The New York Times on Wednesday by participants at Syria talks held in Astana, Kazakhstan, is one of the most detailed suggestions to emerge in recent months in the rocky negotiations to halt the war, now in its seventh year.

The proposal would apply to Syrian government and rebel forces in the four main areas of the country where insurgents unaffiliated with the Islamic State still hold significant territory.

But it faces a number of challenges, most notably acceptance by the Syrian government and the insurgent groups attending the talks.

The insurgent groups suspended participation in the talks on Wednesday to protest what they described as heavy bombing by

the Syrian government’s Russian-backed forces the day before that killed dozens, including civilians.

The Russian proposal does not specify measures to prevent government warplanes from carrying out such bombings. Rebels said they remained suspicious of Russian guarantees, regardless, because Russia has been unable or unwilling to curb government attacks on civilians.

President Vladimir Putin of Russia said on Wednesday that the proposal had the backing not only of Russia but also of Iran, another ally of President Bashar Assad of Syria, and Turkey, which backs some anti-Assad groups.

“We as guarantors — Turkey, Iran, Russia — will do everything for this to work,” Putin said in remarks carried on Russian television, speaking in Sochi, Russia, after meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey.

The proposal was made as the United States, another supporter of some anti-Assad groups, appeared to be re-engaging in the negotiations after a prolonged absence.

Stuart E. Jones, the acting assistant secretary of state, was in Astana, the most senior U.S. official

to participate in Syria talks since Trump took office.

He arrived after Trump and Putin held a phone conversation on Tuesday about renewing efforts to resolve the conflict, which has left hundreds of thousands dead and half the population displaced.

The draft proposal calls for “de-escalation zones” of safety to be established in four areas: Idlib province, almost entirely held by jihadi and other rebel groups; Eastern Ghouta, a large area of the Damascus suburbs besieged by government forces; a besieged pocket north of the central city of Homs; and southern Syria along the Jordanian border, where rebel groups backed by the United States and its allies have made gains in recent months against both Islamic State and government forces.

Under the proposal, checkpoints ringing those areas would be maintained by both government and rebel forces to allow the free movement of civilians and relief aid. That provision could offer respite from siege warfare, which has been a main weapon of the government.

But the proposal offers few details on how fighting would be thwarted inside the secure zones.

Hosting Palestinian leader, Trump promises Middle East peace

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump plunged into the other side of Middle East peacemaking on Wednesday as he met for the first time with the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, and committed himself to pulling off “the toughest deal” in the world.

Hosting Abbas at the White House, Trump said he would do “whatever is necessary” to bring together the Palestinians and Israelis, who have been warring over the same small patch of land for generations. But he gave no sense of how he would achieve such a goal or exactly what an agreement might look like.

Praising Trump’s “courageous leadership,” “wisdom” and “great negotiating ability,” Abbas said, “We believe that we can be partners with you to bring about a historic peace.”

Abbas repeated the conditions Palestinians have insisted on for years — the creation of an independent Palestinian state based on the borders that existed before the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital; the right of return for refugees; and freedom for prisoners in Israeli cells. As a package, that formulation has been a nonstarter for Israel.

—Peter Baker, *The New York Times*

Trump is expected to relax tax rules on politics in churches

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump plans to mark National Day of Prayer on Thursday by issuing an executive order that makes it easier for churches and other religious groups to actively participate in politics without risking their tax-exempt status, several administration officials said.

Trump’s executive order would attempt to overcome a provision in the federal tax code that prohibits religious organizations like churches from directly opposing or supporting political candidates.

The move is likely to be hailed by some faith leaders, who have long complained that the law stifles their freedom of expression. But the order falls short of a more sweeping effort to protect religious liberties that has been pushed by conservative religious leaders since Trump’s election.

Many clergy members say they do not want to endorse political candidates from the pulpit because it could split their congregations and distract from their religious messages. This appears to be the case even among evangelicals, although it is Trump’s conservative evangelical advisers who encouraged him to address the issue.

—Michael D. Shear, Laurie Goodstein and Maggie Haberman, *The New York Times*

Suicide bombing of U.S. military convoy in Kabul kills 8 Afghans

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least eight Afghan civilians were killed and three U.S. soldiers wounded Wednesday when a suicide bomber attacked a U.S. military convoy during the morning rush hour in Kabul, officials said.

The explosion happened around the corner from one of the entrances of the heavily guarded U.S. Embassy at the center of the Afghan capital, as a convoy of U.S. soldiers passed through.

Najib Danish, a spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry, said eight Afghans were killed and 25 wounded in the car bombing.

Capt. Bill Salvin, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Kabul, said that three U.S. soldiers were wounded in the blast but that their injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

An affiliate of the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, which comes amid fears of escalating violence as the resurgent Taliban have begun another spring offensive.

—Mujib Mashal and Fahim Abed, *The New York Times*

Apple announces \$1 billion fund to create U.S. manufacturing jobs

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple, the world’s most valuable public company, said it planned to dedicate resources to American job creation with a \$1 billion fund to invest in advanced manufacturing in the United States. The company said it would announce the first investment from its new fund later this month.

The fund “can be the ripple in the pond,” Timothy D. Cook, Apple’s chief executive, said during an interview with CNBC in which he announced the new fund. “Those manufacturing jobs create more jobs around them because you have a service industry that builds up around them.”

In introducing the fund, Apple joined a growing list of companies that have said in recent months that they will add, promote or keep jobs — many of them related to manufacturing — in the United States.

—Katie Benner and Nelson D. Schwartz, *The New York Times*

Comey defends FBI disclosure that jolted election

WASHINGTON — James B. Comey, the FBI director, sharply defended his decision to notify Congress about new emails in the Hillary Clinton investigation just before Election Day, reopening on Wednesday the still-raw debate over whether he cost her the presidency.

Comey’s remarks at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing were his first public explanation for his actions, which roiled the campaign in its final days and cast a harsh spotlight on him. He acknowledged that revealing the renewed inquiry and enduring the torrent of criticism that followed had taken a toll.

“It makes me mildly nauseous to think that we might have had some impact on the election,” he told the senators. “But honestly, it wouldn’t change the decision.”

“Concealment, in my view, would have been catastrophic,” he said, adding later that he knew the decision would be “disastrous for me personally.”

—Adam Goldman, *The New York Times*

Justice Department says it won’t charge officers in shooting

Richard Fausset
and Alan Blinder
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Justice Department announced Wednesday that it would not prosecute two white police officers in the fatal shooting of a black man here last year, one of several police shootings around the country that caused widespread unrest.

Officers wrestled Alton B. Sterling to the pavement outside a convenience store on July 5, then shot him several times at point-blank range as they struggled, a confrontation that was recorded on video. The police had responded to a report that Sterling had threatened people with a gun, one of the officers can be heard on video shouting “he’s got a gun,” and after the shooting an officer can be seen retrieving

an object from the mortally wounded man’s pants pocket.

“After extensive investigation into this tragic event, career Justice Department prosecutors have concluded that the evidence is insufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt” that the officers willfully violated Sterling’s civil rights, the department said in a statement.

“Given the totality of the circumstances — that the officers had been fighting with Sterling and had attempted less-than-lethal methods of control; that they knew Sterling had a weapon; that Sterling had reportedly brandished a gun at another person; and that Sterling was much larger and stronger than either officer,” the statement concluded, “the department cannot prove either that the shots were unconstitutional or that they were willful.”

Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who inherited the Baton Rouge case, is certain to face further attention over how he proceeds in the fatal shooting on Saturday of a 15-year-old black student by an officer near Dallas. The officer was fired Tuesday. Word of the Justice Department’s decision in the Sterling case leaked to the news media Tuesday, and local officials criticized the department for not informing them before the news became public.

Separately, the Louisiana attorney general, Jeff Landry, said Wednesday that his office would determine whether the shooting had violated state law. “A thorough and complete investigation could take a considerable amount of time,” Landry said in a statement. “As such, we ask for patience from the public and the press.”

Puerto Rico requests bankruptcy relief on \$123 billion

Mary Williams Walsh
THE NEW YORK TIMES

With its creditors at its heels and its coffers depleted, Puerto Rico sought what is essentially bankruptcy relief in federal court on Wednesday, the first time in history that an American state or territory had taken the extraordinary measure.

The action sent Puerto Rico, whose approximately \$123 billion in debt and pension obligations far exceeds the \$18 billion bankruptcy filed by Detroit in 2013, to uncharted ground.

While the court proceedings could eventually make the island solvent for the first time in decades, the more immediate repercussions will likely be grim: Government workers will forgo pension money, public health and infrastructure projects will go wanting, and the “brain drain” the island has been suffering as professionals move to the mainland

could intensify.

The total includes about \$74 billion in bond debt and \$49 million in unfunded pension obligations.

While many of Puerto Rico’s circumstances are unique, its case is also a warning sign for many U.S. states and municipalities — such as Illinois and Philadelphia — that are facing some of the same strains. Historically, Puerto Rico was barred from declaring bankruptcy. In the end, however, financial reality trumped the statutes, and Congress enacted a law last year allowing bankruptcy-like proceedings.

Puerto Rico has been in a painful recession since 2006, and previous governments dug it deeper into debt by borrowing to pay operating expenses, year after year. For the last two years, officials have been seeking assistance from Washington, testifying before stern congressional committees and even making fast-track oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme

Court.

The island’s many creditors — whose lawsuits filed against Puerto Rico on Tuesday prompted the island’s request for court relief on Wednesday — are likely to receive far less of their money back than they want. Their predicament may turn out to be a cautionary tale for bond holders of other troubled states and cities. Puerto Rico’s case could show public workers and retirees that seemingly inviolate pension systems can be changed, too.

The next step is for the Supreme Court — specifically, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. — to designate a bankruptcy judge to handle the case.

“We remain committed to holding good-faith negotiations to reach agreements with our creditors,” Puerto Rico’s governor, Ricardo Rosselló, said in a statement Wednesday, adding that he hoped the court proceedings would “accelerate the process.”



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GUEST COLUMN

Medical leave as an opportunity to refocus

By René Andrés García Franceschini

Last week, *The Tech* published an article that, in part, recounted the experience a student had going on leave. This person described going on leave as a "hellhole," which made me think back on my own experience being away from MIT for almost a year. I have absolutely no intention of invalidating her story, or that of anyone else who went through a rough time on leave. However, I did want to share a perspective that is less commonly heard: that is, how going on leave was a massive force of change and improvement on my life.

My reasons for taking time off were perhaps more common than we'd like to admit. Although I was doing alright in my classes, I was very deeply unhappy with my MIT experience. Part of it was due to having very unsure life goals (questioning whether you like science is a stressful thought to have at MIT), and part of it was due to dissatisfaction with the way I had been living my life. While going to Mental Health was helpful, after a while it became clear that there was no way my mental health issues could be solved while juggling academics. However, the actual decision to go on leave was very difficult and terrifying. I come from Puerto Rico, where the dire financial situation has led to very limited opportunities to find a job, obtain health insurance, or take classes. My low-income background certainly didn't help: my dad had lived in Texas for about five years to maintain a job, my mom frequently found herself unemployed (and actually lost her job a month after I went on leave), and a good chunk of our income went to my brothers' education. Needless

to say, I had all the usual fears: what happens when I get home, how will I explain to people that I had to put my academics on hiatus (especially since knowledge of mental health issues back home is mediocre at best), how will I find a job or take classes or do *anything*, what if I'm not able to return...?

I ended up going home halfway through my sophomore fall. I almost immediately began treatment, and a month and a half later I started working as a computer science teacher at my old high school. Despite how tough the leave was at first (affording treatment without health insurance required me to go through a million and one hoops), it's impossible for me to put into words how amazing of an experience this was. Since I was a kid, I've been so focused on this super narrow path of taking tests and doing homework that I had lost track of how much there is to see and do in the world. In the apparent simplicity of my new life, I found a passion for learning and discussing the myriad of societal issues Puerto Rico and other countries were facing, which led to me changing majors. I developed a close connection to my family, especially with my mom, with whom I frequently butted heads before coming to MIT. I fell in love with exploring the natural beauty of my island, and I found extreme fulfillment in serving others, through teaching or otherwise. Having that "MIT student" identity stripped from me taught me how to disentangle my self-worth from my academic work, how to find purpose and meaning in what I truly enjoyed, and how to love myself unconditionally. Quite honestly, these identity issues would likely

have never been resolved had I pushed through and stayed at MIT.

Now, there's a lot of concern around campus regarding coming back to MIT. I've heard the term "horror stories" used to describe this almost invariably. I can't speak for anyone except myself, but my experience has been the complete opposite of that. I was very lucky to have an S3 dean who very clearly laid out from the start what I would have to do to come back and regularly checked up on me to make sure I was doing well. While there is something scary about the whole return process, I genuinely felt that I was in good hands. And it turned out just fine: I came back the next year and have felt consistently content with my time here so far. I feel much more involved in my activities, much more engaged in my classes, and much more connected to MIT's campus and culture.

A couple of weeks ago, I was looking back at conversations I had with friends at MIT or otherwise and I caught a pattern: oftentimes I would describe a belief that I had, or an attitude I developed, or an activity I started doing, or a relationship that I strengthened as something I started "while I was on leave." In fact, at one point I told someone that I honestly believed 90 percent of who I am was born during my year off from MIT. That's insane to think about, given that more than 19 years of my life happened before that. But going on leave has without a doubt been the most formative and life-changing experience of my life, and I'm very proud of having set aside my academics for my mental health.

René Andrés García Franceschini is a member of the MIT Class of 2019.



OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Colleen Madligner, Editor in Chief Katherine Nazemi, Managing Editor Vivian Hu, Executive Editor William Navarre, and Opinion Editor Claire Lazar.

Dissents are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority.

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Saturday Stumper

Solution, page 12

ACROSS

- 1 Bad egg
- 7 Furors
- 15 Likely to travel well, in a way
- 17 Why movie popcorn costs so much
- 18 Union Pacific's headquarters
- 19 Swagger
- 20 Creature-feature opening
- 21 Symbol of France
- 22 1938 Time cover subject at 23
- 24 Character "with thy sharp teeth"
- 25 Parent of some zebroids
- 26 Faces at luaus
- 27 Word from the Spanish for "courtyard"
- 29 Pass, slangily
- 30 Zipped
- 31 One of Marmee's girls
- 34 Opens
- 35 Cover subject for Seventeen, Golf and Forbes
- 36 Dumps

37 Layers of song

38 1000+ members of the "Seventy-Six Trombones" band

39 Uranian moon named for a queen

42 IRA payees

43 "Sweetest one" in "Jambalaya"

45 Flag (down)

46 Work with a company, say

47 Engagement enders

48 Longtime Web browser

49 Yogi Berra 15-time acquisition

53 Objective of an anger management course

54 Cart fillers

55 Rayon alternative

DOWN

1 First drink in aluminum cans

2 Audacious Jesuit of French fiction

3 Flower-bud shielders

4 Comic strip with "four basic guilt groups"

5 Section of Disney's Animal

6 Russian name given to Tolstoy

7 How some HDTVs are made

8 Crowd that's expected

9 Third doll in the Barbie line

10 Scuba meas.

11 People that a state was named for

12 Home of Musk's SolarCity

13 Around

14 Galley supply

16 Abraham in-law

22 Pentagram-pendant wearers' practice

23 Contents of some mortars

26 Stinker

28 "__ not offence that indiscretion finds": King Lear

29 Fancy __

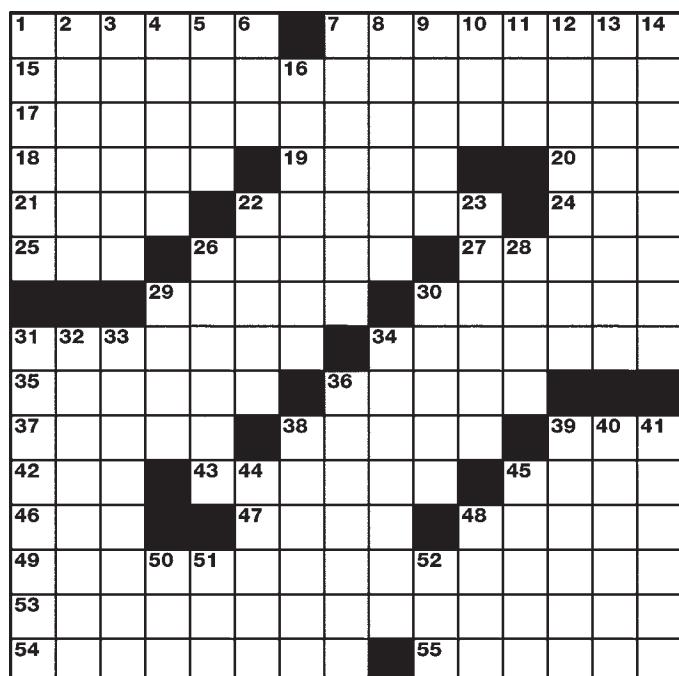
30 Uncharitable

31 Made like some wooden stencils

32 Speechless, maybe

33 Music class

34 What Beowulf never had for dinner

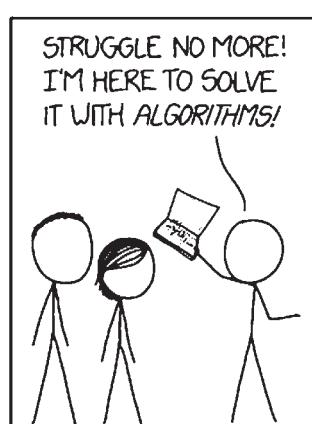
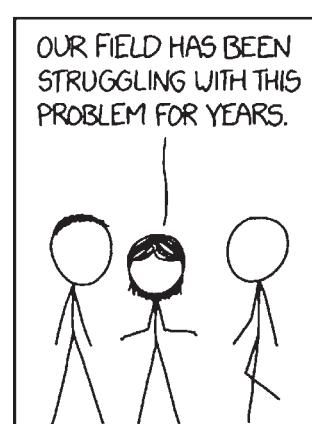


36 Hispanas particulares	45 The ultimate in flagrancy
38 Basis for many a Pokémon	48 "Law floats in __ of
39 What may motivate zingers	ethics": Earl Warren
40 Means to an end	50 Subordinates, for short
41 Whom The Muppet Movie was dedicated to	51 Coinmaking tool
44 Golfing gear	52 Users of the HEART Pathway app

Decadence by SOYO



[1831] Here to Help

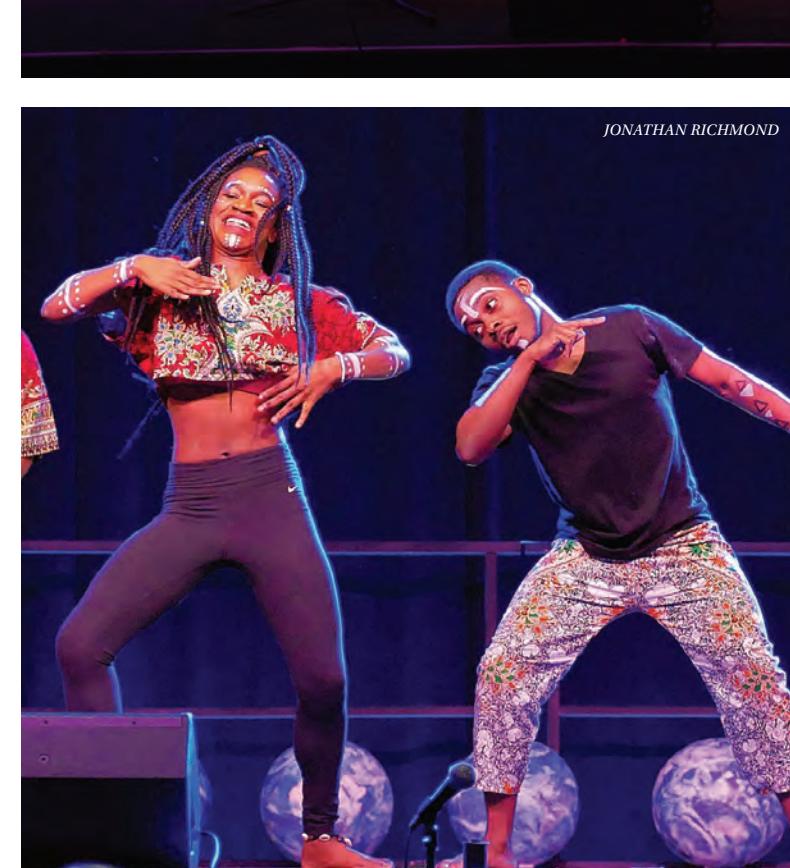


We told you it was hard, but now that we're here, we know it's hard.



OneWorld @ MIT

The OneWorld cultural festival took place April 29. The first of its kind, it showcased the diverse talents and backgrounds of students. A total of 17 solo performers and groups brought slices of their countries to Johnson Ice Rink, followed by campus-wide tent parties on Kresge Oval, Killian Court, McDermott Court, and the Walker Memorial tennis courts.



US-ISRAEL RELATIONS: 100 DAYS INTO

THE TRUMP
ADMINISTRATION

AND 20 YEARS
AFTER RABIN'S
ASSASSINATION

MAY
11

7:30 PM,
ROOM 2-105

FRIENDS OF
ISRAEL

with UDI SOMMER

THE USA AND ISRAEL
HAVE HAD A LONG LASTING
BOND, IN RECENT YEARS, SHIFTS
IN US RELATIONS AND CONFLICTS
WITHIN THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE
CHANGED THE FACE OF US-ISRAEL
RELATIONS. **UDI SOMMER**, AN ISRAEL
INSTITUTE VISITING PROFESSOR,
EXAMINES THE PAST 20 YEARS, THE
CURRENT STATE WITH THE NEW
ADMINISTRATION, AND FUTURE
CHALLENGES THAT WILL BE FACED
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND
ISRAEL.



Hello gorgeous!

Say no to the other you

By Laura Facussé

Have you met your "other" self? No one likes to admit they have one, but I am starting to become well-acquainted with mine. Lately, she has come alive in 3D and is stronger than ever. Perhaps school stress led my mind to build theories that betray me. I'll describe her in more detail, and maybe our "other" selves will identify with each other.

She is strong-willed. When I am debating whether to hang out with friends, she is the one reminding me, "Laura, focus on your work, these social moments pass. You are working towards something bigger."

She is insecure. When she sees others succeed, she begins to compare me to them. I begin to question myself. MIT is a humbling place. What's my purpose in life? What am I good at? Will I be able to get a summer internship? Will anyone want to hire me? Is my start-up idea any good? Am I cut out to be an entrepreneur?

She is destructive. She makes me forget all of my successes and worth. She reduces me to zero, and I drown. She reminds me of painful past memories that I would like to block. I impulsively repeat negative and unproductive behavior patterns.

She is afraid, so I lose my confidence and the anxiety creeps in. I want to stay in bed all day, watch a movie, and forget I ex-

ist. I don't want to be acknowledged, so I walk around campus with my head down, looking at the pavement.

She is selfish. She makes me feel that if I give, I lose. She questions everyone's intentions. She reacts impulsively. She doesn't want to share. Favors make her feel uncomfortable. She doesn't deserve them.

She makes me feel that everyone is against me, but how could that be? I realized I sounded paranoid. I wanted to this struggle to rest; it had pushed me to the edge. So, I followed advice from the very best, the CEO of General Electric, Jeff Immelt. He says he sometimes goes to bed feeling like a failure, but he has a private

ritual. Every morning in front of the bathroom mirror, he gracefully says to himself, "Hello handsome," and is reborn.

The day after I learned about this ritual, I started wearing a bracelet in an attempt to remind myself to say no to my "other" self. I also found my "happy place" on campus: the lawn between Kresge Auditorium and the Student Center. It's a place that reminds me where I really am. I am at MIT, my dream school. MIT is a demanding place, but also transparent, open, and warm. I look up at the dome, carrying a cup of coffee in the morning, ready for class. Hello gorgeous, IHTFP!

Laura Facussé is a first year student at MITdm.

TECH TRANSFERS

Munther Dahleh

Immigrant members of the MIT community

I was born in a small town in the West Bank in Palestine called Tulkarem. However, I grew up in Amman, Jordan. I came to America when I was 17 years old. I spent 7 years in Texas where I got my BS and PhD. I then came to MIT as an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and I have been here since then. I met my wife, Jinane, at MIT, and we raised our three kids (Deema, Hilal, and Yazeed) while we were housemasters at MacGregor house. After living in Cambridge for 30 years, I can confidently say that this is our home.

I am a control theorist by training. At MIT, I have had the opportunity to explore many applications covering space, automotive fields, neuroscience, urban systems, energy systems, and financial systems. I am intensely involved with MIT — beyond being a house head, I chaired the Committee on Discipline, I had several departmental leadership positions, and I am now the director of the newly formed Institute on Data, Systems, and Society. The people at MIT have enriched my life in ways that I cannot easily describe. I am indebted to this community for the opportunities it has given me and proud to be a member of it.

Munther Dahleh is the William Coolidge Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Director of the MIT Institute for Data, Systems, and Society.

Editor's note: Tech Transfers is a photo series by Professor Daniel Jackson that features immigrant members of MIT.



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“Every day is a march for women,” professor says

March, from Page 1

Griffith recently participated in the fourth Worldwide Endometriosis March. In her eyes, people can focus on “the shameful fact that so little is known about diseases such as endometriosis” as an alternative to marching for science. Adenomyosis, which appears at alarmingly high rates in endometriosis cases, has only 2,184 PubMed articles listed under its name. By contrast, the database contains 22,297 articles for erectile dysfunction.

“There is huge debate on whether or not to support pro-choice ideals, and people should also recognize that an important part in allowing a woman to choose is to make sure she *can* reproduce. You are robbing women of their

reproductive rights by letting these debilitating diseases affect their fertility,” Griffith says. “That is why I march. Every day is a march for women.”

For others, it’s also imperative to acknowledge research funding cuts in non-science fields. Professor Deborah Fitzgerald, Cutten Professor of the History of Technology Program in Science Technology, and Society at MIT, notes: “As a historian, I am of course very concerned about the threat to shut down the National Endowment for the Humanities, which funds humanities research. But anyone who cares about museums, literature, historic sites, and exhibits should also be worried.”

Professor S.P. Kothari, the Gordon Y. Billard Professor of Ac-

counting and Finance at the Sloan School of Management, suggests that the real topic of debate is the role that the government should play in funding our research.

Kothari feels that marches can be better conducted to focus on this topic. “Where I think marches should do a better job, if I were them, is to explain...why a push for private sector funding would not be successful. In economics, we talk about the argument called market failure where certain research benefits the society at large, but it doesn’t benefit directly the companies. Therefore, if you push funding to the private sector, then the private sector won’t invest in that sort of research as much.”

“However, whether the current

level of funding is optimal or sub-optimal is not totally obvious to me.”

Commenting on the debate surrounding international accords to reduce carbon consumption, Kothari said, “The US burns about one billion tons of coal. China used to burn one billion tons in 2000; it now burns four billion tons today. So whatever little changes you want to make in the US, it’s a rounding error compared to what China and other countries do.”

Efforts like the Paris Agreement are useless, Kothari said, “unless you tell us how we are going to coordinate with 190 countries and convince China and India and other countries in saying, ‘Don’t grow because you are harming the planet.’ I’m not a climate denier, and still, I would come

in with this position.”

Kothari suggests the solution is to “collect some companies to invest in research in clean energy” with the ultimate goal of making clean energy cheaper than carbon-based energy.

“No one is anti-science here,” he said. “I think we are all pro-science, whether they are Republicans or Democrats. Where the difference is: what is the best way of funding?”

“But instead, the debate gets painted as, ‘Well, these are climate deniers. These are anti-science people.’ That’s not what it is. So what I try to say is, ‘Don’t try to make yourself look good by saying others are bad. That’s not a good strategy. Tell us why you are good in your own right.’”



ANSELMO CASSIANO—THE TECH

MIT students participate in a walkout for immigrant and labor rights on May Day.

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www.MassPeaceAction.org/MITconf



Barbara Lee, US Congress Member (CA)



Dr. Ernie Moniz,
 CEO of Nuclear Threat
 Initiative & Former
 Energy Secretary



Michel DeGraff,
 MIT Linguistics &
 Director MIT-Haiti
 Initiative



Max Tegmark
 MIT Cosmologist &
 Future of Life Institute

SPORTS

SPORTS BLITZ

Men's Baseball (20-11-1) won three out of four games last week. They advanced to the NEWMAC Championship series that will be held this weekend.

Women's Softball (21-11) lost their two games against Babson College and Wheaton College last week.

Men's Lacrosse (10-5) split their two games last week. They defeated Wheaton College 5-4 but lost to Springfield College 15-10.

Women's Lacrosse (8-8) narrowly lost to Babson College 10-9 in overtime. They would bounce back with a strong performance to defeat Emerson College 18-10.

Men's Track and Field won their 17th consecutive NEWMAC Outdoor championship, placing 1st of 6. Cody Bratten '18 was named NEWMAC Field Athlete of the Year.

Women's Track and Field won their 9th straight NEWMAC Outdoor championship, placing 1st of 9. Michele Menkiti '20 was named NEWMAC Co-Rookie of the Year.

Sailing finished 11th of 18 in the NEISA Coed Championship.

Solution to Crossword
from page 5

RASCAL	RUM	PUSES
CREASER	RESISTANT	
CAPTIVE	AUDIENCE	
OMAHA	BRAG	MAW
LILY	WELLES	ASP
ASS	TIKIS	PATIO
	DUCAT	SILENT
JOMARCH	UNCLOGS	
IVANKA	STIES	
GEESE	REEDS	MAB
SRS	YVONNE	WAVE
ACT	IDOS	AOLER
WORLD	SERIES	ESRING
EMOTIONAL	RESCUE	
DESSERTS	SATEEN	



ARON RICARDO PEREZ-LOPEZ—THE TECH

Dancers compete in the finals for Smooth and Standard styles at the MIT Open Ballroom Competition in Rockwell Saturday night.

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